

Application Serial No. 10/605,934  
Docket No. 42994.0217  
Amendment and Reply dated October 5, 2004  
Reply to Office Action mailed on August 6, 2004

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**In the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A utility knife including
  - (a) a handle having a first end and a second end;
  - (b) a neck having
    - (i) a distal end,
    - (ii) a proximate end,
    - (iii) a longitudinal axis, and
    - (iv) a first edge and a second edge;
  - (c) an aperture formed in said distal end of said neck;
  - (d) a blade of uniform thickness with a reduced thickness edge which tapers to form a cutting edge, said blade slidably inserted in said aperture, said blade including
    - (i) a base,
    - (ii) an upper edge opposed to and spaced apart from said base,
    - (iii) at least one cutting edge extending along at least a portion of said base wherein said cutting edge extends beyond, and said blade moveable between two positions with respect to said aperture,
    - (iv) a first position with said blade slidably removed from said aperture, and
    - (v) a second inserted position with a portion of said blade slidably inserted in said aperture, said upper edge of said blade along said first edge of said neck, said cutting edge along said second edge of said neck, said cutting edge extends longitudinally beyond said second edge of said neck, and said blade generally parallel to said longitudinal axis;
  - (e) means for attaching said proximate end to said first end; and,
  - (f) a blade retainer configured to hold said blade in said neck.
2. (Currently amended) A utility knife including:

a handle configured to pivotally mate with a neck, wherein said neck includes a first edge, ~~and~~ a second edge and a blade insertion aperture; and,

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a removable, replaceable blade of uniform thickness with an upper edge and a reduced thickness edge which tapers to form a cutting edge, said blade adapted to mate with the neck such that said upper edge of said blade is along said first edge of said neck, said cutting edge is along said second edge of said neck, and said cutting edge extends longitudinally beyond said second edge of said neck.

3. (Previously presented) The utility knife of claim 2, wherein said neck further includes a blade retainer.
4. (Previously presented) The utility knife of claim 2, wherein said neck further includes a securing pin.
5. (Previously presented) The utility knife of claim 2, wherein said neck further includes a blade retainer configured to hold the blade in the neck, whereby the blade can be removed from the neck and replaced without disassembly of the handle.
6. (Previously presented) The utility knife of claim 3, wherein said blade retainer includes a device which provides pressure against said blade.
7. (Currently amended) The utility knife of claim 3, wherein said blade retainer includes a device configured to at least one of mate with ~~an~~ and provide pressure against said blade.
8. (Previously presented) The utility knife of claim 2, wherein the neck is configured to slideably receive said blade.
9. (Previously presented) The utility knife of claim 2, wherein said blade is a trapezoidal blade.
10. (Previously presented) The utility knife of claim 2, wherein said handle includes an elongated groove configured to receive at least a portion of said neck.
11. (Previously presented) The utility knife of claim 2 further including a device configured to maintain the neck in at least one of an open position and a closed position.
12. (Previously presented) The utility knife of claim 2, wherein said neck includes a slot for removing said blade from said neck.
13. (Previously presented) The utility knife of claim 2, wherein said neck includes a slot to facilitate access to a portion of the blade that is mated with said neck.
14. (Previously presented) The utility knife of claim 2 further including a finger stop.

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15. (Previously presented) The utility knife of claim 2 wherein said handle further includes at least one of a ring, clip and eyelet.

16. (Currently amended) The utility knife of claim 2, wherein the handle is comprised of a first part and a second part such that said first part and said second part are configured to pivot to converge upon the neck in a closed position, and said first part ~~of~~ and said second part are configured to align opposite the neck in an open position.

17. (Previously presented) The utility knife of claim 2 further including a catch device to enable a user to pivot the neck in at least one direction using solely said catch device.

18. (Previously presented) The utility knife of claim 2 further including a catch device to enable a user to pivot the neck in at least one direction using solely said catch device, wherein said catch device includes at least one of a detent, opening and raised surface in the neck.

19. (Currently amended) The utility knife of claim 2 wherein ~~said first position includes~~ said blade is slidably ~~removed~~ removable from said aperture without participation from a component of said handle.

20. (Currently amended) The utility knife of claim 2, wherein said blade further includes an anchor opening in said blade to facilitate retaining the blade in said neck ~~the blade holder~~.

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